GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3025
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
WHO REPORT ON POLLUTION
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Report of WHO, pollution is a major killer in India as reported in The Hindustan Times, dated June 15, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)&(b)The study entitled "Preventive Disease through Healthy Environments" was undertaken by World Health Organization (WHO) in 2002 and is based on limited data for statistical analysis. It is stated in the Report that globally, an estimated 24% of the disease burden (healthy life years lost) and an estimated 23% of all deaths (premature mortality) are attributable to environmental factors like unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation, respiratory infections associated with indoor air pollution etc.

(c) The study undertaken by WHO is based on limited data for any meaningful statistical analysis. The WHO has itself observed in the report that in view of scarce quantitative data, the estimates were provided by experts in environmental health and health care.

(d) To abate and control environmental pollution, various steps have been initiated including the following :

Notification of effluent and emission standards for various industries;
Identification of industries discharging effluents into rivers and lakes for setting up of water pollution control devices;
Preparation of Action Plans for Ambient Air Quality Management for various cities;
Encouragement to cleaner production technologies;
Regular monitoring of industrial units for environmental compliance;
Issuing directions under Environmental Acts in case of non complying units.